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HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION MEMBER JOE
BERNAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Board of Education Member Joe Bernal.

Mr. Bernal is a proud product of the Texas educational system. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity University, his Master of Arts degree from Our Lady of the Lake University, and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin.

He has amassed a distinguished record in service to his country and his state. He is a World War II veteran who served in the Philippines and Japan. Altogether, Mr. Bernal has more than 50 years experience in education and government service, including time spent as a social worker, a classroom teacher, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a Texas state representative, and a state senator.

During his legislative career, Mr. Bernal was a tireless advocate for education and civil rights. He championed bills that created free statewide kindergarten for needy five-year-olds, established the University of Texas at Austin, authorized the state's first minimum wage law, and expunged from the state statute all laws supporting racial segregation.

He now serves the people of Texas as a Member of the State Board of Education, a position he has held with distinction for seven years. Joe Bernal has had an extraordinary career, and his state is immeasurably better off because of all he has done. He is an example to all of us, and I am honored to have the chance to recognize him here today.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO FELIPE
FUENTES

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alfredo Felipe Fuentes, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fuentes is a member of the United Cuban Workers Council and an independent journalist. According to various reports, he has been an active opponent of the dictatorship since 1992. His peaceful, pro-democracy activities and truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

On March 19, 2003, Mr. Fuentes was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, he was accused of sending reports to Radio Martí about opposition

demonstrations. For these "crimes," Mr. Fuentes was sentenced to 26 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Alfredo Felipe Fuentes is languishing in an inhuman gulag because of his belief in truth, freedom and democracy. According to reports, he is held in isolation, he is suffering from malnutrition and the abhorrent state of his cell. Mr. Fuentes is bravely suffering because he believes in freedom for all the men and women of Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is morally repugnant that, in the 21st Century, men and women are still locked in the dungeons of dictators because of their beliefs in freedom and human rights. It is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, brave men and women are systematically tortured because of their belief in democracy and the Rule of Law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alfredo Felipe Fuentes and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN HONOR OF GOVERNOR ELBERT
N. CARVEL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to former Delaware Governor Elbert N. Carvel, lovingly known to most Delawareans as "Big Bert". Bert was born in Shelter Island, New York on February 9th, 1910 to loving parents Arnold W. Carvel and Elizabeth Nostrand Carvel.

Bert Carvel graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1928 and the University of Baltimore law school in 1931. After moving to Delaware in 1936, Mr. Carvel began working for the Valliant Fertilizer Company in Laurel. After years of hard work at Valliant Fertilizer, he rose to the position of President and Chairman of the Board.

Soon after rising to prominence in the business community, the 6 foot, 6 inch, gentle giant decided to throw his hat into the political arena. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Delaware in 1944 and became the 65th Governor of the First State in 1949. He returned to the governorship in 1961 and served out his second term, eventually leaving elected office for good in 1965. As a former Governor myself, I honor and thank Governor Carvel for his major accomplishments while in office.

After leaving office, Governor Carvel remained a fixture around Delaware. His good-natured speeches and humor made him a lively and well-known personality throughout all three counties. He will be remembered for his work with community foundations such as: The March of Dimes, The American Cancer Society, Delaware Wild Lands, the Boy Scouts, Ducks Unlimited, many historical societies throughout Delaware and through his church, St. Philip's Episcopal in Laurel.

Bert Carvel's legacy is one of equal human rights and opportunity; he opposed the death penalty and favored a public accommodations law, civil rights era reform that opened public places to all people, including African-Americans. Bert Carvel was so strong in his convictions that he did not worry about the political

and personal price of legislation. He knew what was right and he made it his job to make sure Delaware always did the just thing. He was truly a larger than life statesman who will leave a larger than life legacy for all of us to remember.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CON-
GRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY
COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last fall I encouraged high school students from the Third Congressional District to join the first-ever Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I guessed that perhaps 10 to 20 students would participate.

Nearly 150 young people from public, private and home-schools applied. An outside, independent panel from the community spent hours pouring over the applications with care. Ultimately, the panel hand-selected 39 students to represent their peers as the voice of the future to Congress.

At our first meeting, I didn't know what to expect so I just opened up the floor to questions. It sounded like a meeting of award-winning scholars, well-respected leaders, and involved-civic activists. That's because they were. The students boasted impressive credentials: honors society, student leadership, school athletics, community philanthropy, language clubs, and musical backgrounds.

Members asked about the future of Social Security, the election in Iraq, and the status of legislation. They voiced their support for our troops and concerns about government spending.

I'm guessing that I learned more from the CYAC than they did, and I'm better for it. I'm eager to improve on the Council next year and hope that the sophomores and juniors will return to contribute. I believe the students enjoyed our time together and feel confident creating the CYAC was the right thing after one person asked if we could meet every week. Clearly these students have things to say about the future of this great country and long to be heard.

It is my hope that someday the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council and I wish each one continued success in all of their endeavors. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

You know, a lot of people hope to make a difference sometime in their lives. To the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, you just did. Thank you. I salute you; God Bless You and God Bless America.

The names of the students follow.

2005 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY
COUNCIL
SOPHOMORES

Merinda Brooks, Plano, Jasper High School.